FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 JANUARY 1986

Libya

Libya "has not been affected" by the measures announced by President Reagan, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stated at a press conference broadcast by Tripoli television, though he noted that Libya is studying countermeasures. He denied, however, that Libya will take military action in response to the U.S. sanctions, stating that a Libyan "suicide attack" would be a response to a military attack on the Jamahiriyah. Al-Qadhdhafi expressed satisfaction with the stance of European states, contrasting their "responsible and reasonable" stand with the "foolish and irresponsible" U.S. action and contending that the Europeans, unlike the United States, do not consider Libya as a terrorist state. Al-Qadhdhafi maintained that all Arab leaders agree with him on the need to do something "serious" that will "bring the United States to its senses," and he said the forthcoming Arab League foreign ministers' meeting will "deal with the United States on a reciprocal basis."

Tripoli television also broadcast Al-Qadhdhafi's opening statement in which he warned that the world must expect further Palestinian violence until a democratic Palestinian state is established. Viewing the Palestinian issue as "the most sacred issue" of our time, equalled only by the struggle of South African blacks, the Libyan leader said he will not hesitate to accept the establishment of Palestinian camps on Libyan territory, though he reaffirmed that Libya is not responsible for "individual and suicide actions" by Palestinian fedayeen. He accused the United States and Israel of practicing "state terrorism" and described the Rome and Vienna shootings as a reply to the "mass murder" of Palestinians in Tunisia, which was "approved" by the United States. Al-Qadhdhafi welcomed the "historic opportunity" created by the current confrontation, asserting that he will "shoulder the responsibility for liberating the Mediterranean from the U.S. presence henceforth." Meanwhile, the ICO foreign ministers condemned the U.S. economic sanctions against Libya in a statement reported by Rabat radio.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi aircraft attacked a large maritime target off the Iranian coast and launched a raid against Khark Island, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

In Fes, the political committee of the ICO Foreign Ministers' Conference failed to reach any final resolution on the Iran-Iraq war during lengthy discussions 8-9 January, Rabat radio reported. The conference has established a subcommittee which will attempt to find a compromise formula.

Israel

The Inner Cabinet in its 9 January meeting discussed the "political package deal" with Egypt that includes the Taba issue, but no decision was reached, Jerusalem radio reported. The Inner Cabinet will continue its discussions on the matter 12 January, the radio added.

Palestinian Affairs

Walid Awdah, "political spokesman" for the group led by Sabri al-Banna, alias Abu Nidal, told the Vienna weekly *PROFIL* that "we will not kill a brother such as 'Arafat." He also asserted that Al-Banna is in Lebanon, not Libya.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Security Forces Crush Rebel Group in Qarah Bagh

LD100737 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1630 GMT 9 Jan 86

[Text] As a result of the successful operations which were recently mounted by the courageous security forces at the environs of the Qarah Bagh District, 4 armed counterrevolutionary elements were captured and another 8 were crushed. Some 40 antitank mines, 160 boxes of Kalashnikov ammunition, 4 boxes [as heard] of mortar mines, 40 shells for recoilless guns, 1 rocket launcher along with 40 missiles, 4 Kalashnikovs, and antistate documents -- proving their links with reaction and imperialism -- were seized from these criminals and three of their hideouts were destroyed.

Border Tribes Appeal to Gandhi on Pakistan Attacks

GF091506 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 9 Jan 86

[Text] The Jamiat-e Ulema of Waziristan Agency has sent the following message to Rajiv Gandhi, premier of India and the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, in connection with the criminal deeds of the blackhearted government of Pakistan against the Pashtun tribes of Khyber Agency:

Excellency, Rajiv Gandhi, prime minister of India and the leader of the Nonaligned Movement. It seems now that the frontier of the Khyber Agency is besieged by Pakistani forces and the aggression with the heavy weapons of the imperialists and hegemonists (?against) the (?valorous) Pashtuns and the Afridi and Shinwari tribes. So far a lot innocent people have been killed and a number of the houses in the villages have been destroyed. This criminal deed of the Pakistan Government is contrary to all treaties which have long remained effective.

One of the aims of the conduct of Pakistan is to put an end to the traditional and historic freedom of tribes and to suppress the free tribes by means of weapons and to use the tribal regions as a training ground for bandits and counterrevolutionaries and a channel for sending the weapons into the territories of the DRA.

You are aware that the Pakistani military government has kept active the centers of training of counterrevolutionary bandits against the April Revolution and that from these regions it sends various types of war ammunition for the massacre of the people and the disruption of the life of the DRA. The free Pashtun tribes hold in contempt this improper policy of Pakistan provoked and led by imperialists and do not want the people of Afghanistan should fall victims to the ploys of imperialism and other reactionary forces.

In this sensitive situation we appeal to you as the leader of the Nonaligned Movement to exert pressure on the Pakistan Government by making use of the wide prestige of this peace-loving international movement. We are looking forward to you and hope that you, as a leader of the Nonaligned Movement and the leader of the peace-loving country of India, not to refrain from your support and assistance to the tribes. Respectfully always.

[Signed] Maulana Mohammad Hashem, President of Jamiat-e Ulema Agency of Waziristan

Ziaul Haq Held Responsible for Khyber Violence

LD092328 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 9 Jan 86

[Text] Kabul, January 7, BAKHTAR — The military regime of Ziaul Haq and his patrons in Washington are responsible for all crimes and bloodshed in Khyber region, writes daily *KABUL NEW TIMES*.

The vast military [words indistinct], which is being launched at the moment by the blood-thirsty regime of Ziaul Haq against free Pashtun tribes in Khyber, is the biggest [words indistinct] in the course of past five years.

In this military attack, over 20,000 soldiers equipped with tanks, heavy cannons, bulldozers, helicopters and bomber aircrafts [words indistinct] used and already tens of villages, hundreds of houses, forts, mosques, and hundreds of innocent people, including women, old men and children have been killed by the Panjabi mercenaries.

A large number of these people have fled to mountains. The criminal regime mercilessly kill defenceless [words indistinct], and with its military seige has blocked the delivery of primary goods needed by the people.

The commitments made by the free tribes in high jirgas of tribes in Kabul concerning the shielding of borders and preventing the training and export of mercenary bands from their territories have become the main obstacle to the plans of Washington and Islamabad for continuing the undeclared war against the DRA. They try either to compel the free tribes give up their determination or to remove, at any cost, this obstacle from their way. To achieve this end, the Islamabad regime attacks Afridi and Shenwar tribes, who have risen in opposition to the presence of the training bases of Afghan counterrevolutionaries in their regions.

The fighters of Afridi and Shenwar tribes have staunchly withstood the predatory attack of Islamabad carried out at the behest of Washington, and so far caused [words indistinct] of men [words indistinct] material for the Pakistani Army.

Political observers who follow closely [words indistinct] policy of continuation of undeclared war against different countries of the world, have been [words indistinct] convinced by now that the Afghan [words indistinct], who have been trained by American advisers in the territory of Pakistan, have changed into a punitive force of imperialism and reaction against the national liberation movements in the region.

MORNING STAR Views Political Developments

PM091220 London MORNING STAR in English 6 Jan 86 p 2

[John Haylett article: "Nurturing the Roots of Democracy"]

[Text] Recent press comment on Afghanistan has centred on the appointment of one minister, several deputy ministers and other government officials, who have one feature in common.

They are not members of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), which led the April revolution of 1978 to overthrow the corrupt Daoud regime. Rather than these appointments being a sign of weakness of the government of Babrak Karmal, they represent the latest evidence of a consistent policy of broadening the social basis of the national democratic revolution. They are the logical consequence of the growth of influence of the PDPA, which was founded in 1964 with a membership of less than 80. Membership rose to 12,000 by 1978, and now stands at 145,000.

The confidence emanating from this growth of influence, particularly expressed in the recently extended revolutionary council session held in the capital, Kabul, in November, 1985, has led to the offer of what amounts to a general amnesty for all who have fought against the revolution.

"The extended revolutionary council session showed even more flexibility than before," declares Nadjmuddin Khawiani, a member of both the PDPA Central Committee and of the revolutionary council. "All we ask is that they lay down their arms, even if they have carried out crimes. There is no limitation even for ringleaders. We don't want them to fight for the revolution. We just want them to lead a peaceful life and build the country and not to threaten the integrity or the economic gains of the revolution," he adds.

Among these gains are the improved conditions of the formerly landless and debt-crushed peasantry. Debts amounting to 31 billion afghanis (500 million pounds), which 11 million poor peasants owed to money-lenders were cancelled, and land was distributed to 323,000 landless families. Farm machinery, seeds and technical assistance were provided, and co-operatives were set up to buy directly from the peasants and sell them consumer goods, thus cutting out the middle man.

In the urban areas, trade unions which are encouraged by the PDPA and have a membership of 220,000 have ensured the setting up of factory canteens, nurseries and kindergartens, especially in those workplaces where women workers predominate.

A key battle against the oppression of medieval obscurantism has been the fight to eradicate illiteracy. At the time of the revolution, no less than 95 per cent of all Afghans were illiterate. That has changed drastically with 70 per cent now literate. Over 1.2 million people have graduated from the 20,000 literacy courses now operating. "It will probably take five or six more years to eradicate illiteracy. But for the war, we would have achieved more," says Mr. Khawiani in a reference to the counter-revolutionaries' practice of destroying schools and killing teachers.

Here he pays tribute to the economic assistance given by the Soviet Union, pointing out that 83 per cent of all asphalt roads in Afghanistan and no less than 190 industrial projects are the result of Soviet aid.

Inevitably, this prompts a question on the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan, which has drawn criticism from many quarters.

The British Communist Party while expressing its support for the Afghan revolution, stated its total opposition to the intervention by the Soviet Union, when it took place in 1979.

Mr Khawiani said: "There is no agreement for the permanent basing of Soviet troops in Afghanistan. If there is a cessation of interference and aggression from the territories of Pakistan and Iran, and international guarantees are given that there will be no recurrence, then the Soviet troops could return home in honour."

"The popular foundation of revolutionary power is being strengthened with the passing of each day," was the view expressed by Afghanistan's charge d'affaires in London, Muhammad Mokkamil, over the advances in democratic participation in Afghanistan. For evidence he points to four major developments in 1985:

The convocation of the Loya Jirga (Grand Assembly) from 23 to 25 April.

The High Jirga of the frontier tribes of Pashtuns and Baluchis on September 14/15.

The high turnout in the country's local elections, which began on August 30 and have now been completed in Kabul and seven provinces.

The special extended revolutionary council session of November 14.

"Jirgas are traditional forms of collective self-administration, which have been in existence in Afghanistan for more than 300 years," Mr Mokkamil explains. "Usually, when most important national and international issues are under discussion, it comes under the Jirga. It is important because a resolution of the Jirga is a law, both for the people and the government."

No less than 3,700 delegates from the different tribes and clans of the Pashtun and Baluchi people from the regions bordering Pakistan and Iran attended the High Jirga of the Frontier Tribes.

They approved the foreign and domestic policies of the Afghan government and re-affirmed Afghan-Soviet friendship, which dates back to the 1919 agreement between Lenin and King Amanullah.

Mohammed Mokkamil reports that 20,000 armed counter-revolutionaries laid down their arms as a result of the holding of the Jirgas. Some are now actively defending the revolution, while others at least refrain from attacking it.

The events of the past year in particular have given rise to sober optimism in Nadjmuddin Khawiani. "There are many problems, but the revolution is strengthening its roots among the people. Even the counter-revolutionaries have changed their tune over the possibility of a quick victory. They can't overthrow the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. We have passed through the most difficult years. The revolution is now irreversible," he concludes.

Continuing Reportage on Sikh Students' Strike

Paramilitary Troops Reportedly Deployed

NC091750 Paris AFP in English 1740 GMT 9 Jan 86

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 9 (AFP) — At least 16,000 paramilitary troops are being deployed in the Punjab, where some 300 militants were arrested today, in a bid to forestall an anti-government "block the roads" campaign, reports said here. The moderate Sikh Akali Dal administration has ordered the troops to be deployed in the state in addition to police in a bid to keep the traffic flowing during tomorrow's "block the roads" campaign, officials said.

In the Sikh holy city of Amritsar alone, 38 paramilitary companies have been deployed in addition to 3,000 regular police, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA said, and the state administration had ordered all schools and colleges to remain closed tomorrow.

Some student supporters of the pro-Hindu Shiv Sena (Shiva's Army) were injured in Ludhiana in Punjab today when police used force to disperse a demonstration against extremism, PTI said.

Tomorrow's block the roads action was called by the All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF), and the 300 arrested included prominent AISSF leaders, PTI said. Sikh students today commandeered a public transport bus in Amritsar, ordered the passengers out and set it ablaze, PTI said in a despatch from the city.

Earlier, students barged into examination classes at Amritsar University, tearing up papers and forcing some classes to close. They also held a rally to protest the arrests.

The planned action will be the first mass action against the state government since it came to power in September in elections boycotted by the AISSF.

Punjab state chief minister and Akali Dal Party Chairman Surjit Singh Barnala has said that Sikh militants were seeking to destabilise his government. He has publicly appealed to the students to withdraw the call to block roads, but they have said they are determined to go ahead.

The students are demanding the release of all imprisoned Sikh youths and the reinstatement of Sikh soldiers who deserted the army after troops assaulted the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Sikhism's holiest shrine, in June 1984.

The president of the Akali Dal's youth wing, Prem Singh Chandumajra, said that his members were ready to face 300 commando squads of 20 members reportedly formed by the students and physically remove any federation members blocking traffic tomorrow, although they "would not indulge in violence," PTI said.

An Akali Dal meeting today said it appreciated various measures taken by Mr Barnala so far, including the release of Sikh youths detained during four years of a frequently violent campaign for greater autonomy in Punjab.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and moderate Sikhs signed a peace accord to put an end to the violence in July, paving the way for the September elections.

Measures taken to ensure normal traffic flow tomorrow include providing buses with armed guards and ordering intensive patrolling of railway tracks, PTI said.

Statement by Student Leader

BK091613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Jan 86

[Text] The Punjab government has taken all possible steps to ensure smooth flow of traffic tomorrow in view of the proposed agitation. The call for the road blockade is given by the All India Sikh Students Federation. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh this evening that nobody will be allowed to take law into his hands. He said instructions have been issued to all concerned to see that no inconvenience is caused to the general public. He said police pickets have been posted at all strategic points and patrolling intensified. Over 260 preventive arrests have been made by the police in the state.

In Chandigarh, a meeting of the working committee and district presidents of the youth wing of the Akali Dal was held today. The meeting appreciated the steps taken by the state government toward fulfilling the aspirations of the people and accelerating the tempo of development. Briefing newsmen, the president of the wing, Mr Prem Singh Chandumajra, said the youth wing will not allow the forces unfriendly to the welfare of Punjab to sabotage the Punjab accord and obstruct the development of the state. He appealed to the people not to take notice of the rasta roko [blocking of roads] call and help in normal running of the buses. He said the people had earlier rejected their call for boycott of elections and are now going to frustrate them by rejecting their call.

Agency reports say that Haryana and Himachal Pradesh government have decided to divert their buses to avoid entering Punjab in view of the proposed agitation. A spokesman of the Haryana government said in Chandigarh that the state buses on Chandigarh-Delhi route will go via Panchagulla. The Himachal Pradesh government has also decided not to ply the state government buses on the Punjab territory on the interstate routes tomorrow.

Roads Remain Open

BK100313 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Jan 86

[Text] The Punjab government has taken all possible steps to ensure the smooth flow of traffic today in view of a call for the road blockade given by the All India Sikh Students Federation [AISSF]. According to a Punjab government spokesman, buses are plying in all the districts of the state since this morning. No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere.

Meanwhile, police all over the state are maintaining a strict vigil over the situation. Pickets have been posted at all the sensitive

points and extensive patrolling is continuing. The spokesman said anybody indulging in violence and disruptive activity will be dealt with sternly. The educational institutions at some places have, however, been closed as a precautionary measure.

Meanwhile, the chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has said that the agitation is aimed at diverting the attention of the people and the state government from solving the basic problems of the state. He said the state government has taken the initiative in getting the ban on the AISSF lifted but they have started the agitation, which is against the interests of the state and its people. Reports say that the Haryana and Himachal Pradesh governments have decided to divert their buses to avoid entering Punjab in view of the agitation.

The president of the Shiromani Akali Dal-Master Tara Singh Group, Jathedar Rachpal Singh, has expressed concern over the continued killings of innocent people in Punjab. He demanded a judicial inquiry into all these incidents by a supreme court judge. He appealed to the AISSF not to resort to any agitation.

Police Remove Blockades

BK100746 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 10 Jan 86

[Text] In Punjab, the call for traffic blockade — rasta roko — given by All India Sikh Students Federation for today has evoked no response. An official spokesman told newsmen in Chandigarh that public has totally ignored the call. The traffic in all the major cities and towns is moving about as normal and it is gradually picking up in other places.

The spokesman said some attempts for erecting road blockades were made last night in the districts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Ferozepur, Faridkhot, and Kapurthala. The patrolling police removed all the blockades within minutes with the active cooperation of the people.

In reply to a question, the spokesman said no passenger has been stranded anywhere in the state. He denied suspension of traffic on any route in the state. The spokesman said buses from Punjab to other states are also plying as normal.

Meanwhile, the number of preventive arrests in the state in connection with the call has gone up to 276.

Shooting, Truck Burning Reported

HK101312 Hong Kong AFP in English 1259 GMT 10 Jan 86

[Excerpt] Amritsar, India, Jan 10 (AFP) — Shooting was reported in three areas and students burned vehicles today during a "block the roads" campaign in Punjab state, reports said here.

The traffic situation was reported to be normal some nine hours after the 14-hour campaign began at 2330 GMT Thursday, with businesses open as usual, although few public buses were seen on the roads here, eyewitnesses said.

In one incident, students set fire to a truck loaded with 324 gas cylinders, causing them all to explode, police said in Amritsar.

Shopkeepers fled in panic after the explosions, many of them so frightened that they did not bother to close their shops, they added. No casualties were reported.

In Patiala, campaign supporters opened fire on police and police returned the fire, but no casualties were reported, reliable reports reaching here said.

Sikh student sources here said police had also opened fire in Gurdaspur and Bhatind districts, but no one was hurt.

In Chandigarh, the state capital, a government spokesman said police had to use batons to disperse the protesters, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

More than 20 people were arrested, a dozen of them following the burning of the gas truck, sources said here.

Crowds damaged two private buses and three private cars in an Amritsar suburb, police said.

The Punjab state administration had deployed at least 16,000 paramilitary troops across the state in addition to state police in a bid to ensure smooth traffic flow during today's protest, and had arrested some 300 people, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said yesterday.

The state administration had ordered all colleges and schools to remain closed today.

State government officials in Amritsar said buses were running normally here, although PTI said that several bus services had been suspended.

Earlier today, officials said there had only been one instance of Sikhs trying to block traffic so far, in nearby Vinder. Policemen cleared away logs laid across the road by protesters.

In the gas truck incident, campaign supporters stopped a government agency-owned truck carrying the consignment of liquid petroleum gas near Doburgi, some seven kilometers (four miles) from here and set fire to it, police said. Debris littered the road to a distance of about 200 metres (yards), blocking traffic for about half an hour.

The Punjab state government had pledged to frustrate the militants' protest, the first mass action facing the state government since it came to power in September in elections boycotted by the AISSF.

Political analysts here said that the militants had launched today's campaign to bring about a confrontation with the moderates. "The militants know that if they allow the present government to function in peace that may help the moderates to consolidate their position," said one Sikh analyst here. "What is most disturbing is the fact that the Sikhs are divided, and now appear poised to fight each other," he said.

Greek Prime Minister To Visit 24-28 January

BK091254 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Jan 86

[Text] The Greek prime minister, Mr Andreas Papandreou, will pay a state visit to India from the 24th to the 28th of this month. According to an official announcement in New Delhi today, he will be the chief guest at this year's Republic Day celeberations [on 26 January].

THE HINDU Views Pakistan's Political Path

BK091430 Madras THE HINDU in English 27 Dec 1985 p 8

[Editorial: "Pakistan's Military Burden"]

[Text] Only Pakistan's prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Khan Junejo, asserts frequently that the country is in for a political transformation by the beginning of next year. With the passage of the controversial Political Parties Bill by the National Assembly and the Senate earlier this month there was the widespread hope that it would pave the way for Gen. Ziaul Haq formally to announce the date for the lifting of the eight-year-old martial law. It was believed that he would make the announcement on December 25 coinciding with the birth anniversary of Mohammad Ali Jinnah. But he has done nothing of the kind; obviously he has let Mr. Junejo do the talking and is keeping the options close to his chest. In any event, the martial law administrator ought to be mightily pleased that the so-called elected parliamentarians have acceded to every pre-condition of his, especially the passing of the Indemnity Bill that virtually legitimised more than 300 pieces of legislation, including the referendum of December last held under the cover of martial law.

Although at the time of the passage of the Constitution Eighth Amendment Bill, the Government gave the impression that it was trying for a consensus on the matter with those who opposed it, there was little indication that it was going to repeat the performance with the recent Political Parties Act. When the Independent Parliamentary Group tried to chastise the regime for trying to bulldoze the measure without proper modifications, it put forth the usual argument that adding amendments would only delay the process of a return to the civilian fold.

Although the movement for the lifting of martial law has been gathering momentum for several months now, the uncertain last phase — with the "final" deadline being December 31, 1985 — has only added to the existing state of political fluidity that has also triggered afresh the past few days. If Mr Junejo has used every opportunity to extract concessions from the members of parliament by arguing that failure to act in a particular direction would only postpone the return to civilian rule, thereby hinting it is round the corner, Gen. Zia himself has given no such encouragement. On the contrary, the suspicion might be that he will not after all revert to the pre-martial law days.

There is also the general feeling that even if the country does undergo a political change by January 1, 1986, the military brass would continue to play a dominant role in the political scene. For example, Gen. Zia has not made it quite clear if he still intends to cling to the post of the Chief of the Armed Forces upon becoming the civilian President. As it is, there is more than just silent disquiet amongst the Opposition politicians that irreparable damage has been done to the 1973 Constitution by way of the edicts passed under Gen Zia's dispensation.

In addition there is the considerable body of opinion within the country that both the Indemnity and the Political Parties Acts hardly reflect democratic norms and principles and that the Government, even in a civilian form, has armed itself with enough powers to violate the fundamental rights of the people. While there may be those in the Opposition ranks who might want to keep a low profile for fear of invoking the wrath of the Army bosses for yet another time, there is very little indication that the 11-Party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy and other political groups would sit idle and let the regime postpone the return to the genuine democratic fold.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Calls For Coalition of Parties

HK100326 Hong Kong AFP in English 0304 GMT 10 Jan 86

[By Sam Rajapa]

[Text] Hyderabad, India, Jan 10 (AFP) — A former film actor's idea of a regional and national opposition grouping to offset the ruling Congress (I) Party has taken its first step towards becoming reality, analysts said here.

Although its emergence has been kept deliberately low-key, the Bharat Desam (Land of Indians) Party, brainchild of former film actor and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nandamuri Rama Rao, took its first steps towards realisation at the annual conference of Mr. Rao's Telegu Desam Party last week, they said.

Even regional political parties and two national opposition parties — Janata and Congress (S) — met during the annual conference of Mr. Rao's Telegu Desam Party, in power in Andhra Pradesh. The conference in the state capital Hyderabad ended Sunday.

The emergence of the new party has apparently been played down because the two national opposition parties are not yet ready to accept the leadership of Mr. Rama Rao.

At the same time, some of the regional parties, particularly the moderate Sikh Akali Dal Party, in power in Pumjab, and Assam's ruling Asom Gana Parishad do not want to give the impression that they favour a policy of confrontation with New Delhi, analysts here said. Mr. Rama Rao denied to reporters after the Hyderabad meeting that the groups were preparing for a confrontation with the Congress (I) Party.

The Bharat Desam's first step will be to set up a secretariat in the Indian capital to coordinate its activities, party sources said. The secretariat will initially be charged with forming a common bloc of its members in the Lok Sabha (lower chamber of parliament), to achieve the minimum of 54 MP's needed to be granted the status of an opposition party.

Apart from Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, which holds 410 of the 544 Lok Sabha seats, no single party has the minimum strength required by the constitution to be granted

full status. The 13 parties which took part in the Hyderabad conference have a combined strength of 60. Telegu Desam has the largest contingent, with 30 seats, but it was not clear if Janata and Congress (S), who together hold 17 seats, would go along with this new initiative.

Representatives of both parties signed a joint declaration after the Hyderabad meeting saying that the opposition parties had agreed to coordinate their efforts both inside and outside the legislature. But Janata president Chandra Shekar has since said that his party would not give "blanket support" to regional parties as they were "unpredictable".

A final decision on whether Janata will join the Bharat Desam will have to wait until a party plenary session due to be held in Karnataka on May 1.

Past experience of four opposition "conclaves" initiated by Mr. Rama Rao had convinced him that there was little hope of their merging into a single party to challenge Congress (I) in the federal parliament, analysts said, but the ruling party could also be taken on by regional parties at state level. If regional groups took power in more than half of the 22 states in the Indian Union, a confederation of these parties could challenge Congress at federal level, the analysts said.

Eight states are currently ruled by regional parties, with Assam the most recent addition after the Asom Gana Parishad ousted Congress (I) in state elections last month — helped by campaign support from Mr. Rama Rao, for which he was publicly thanked in Hyderabad.

Mr. Rama Rao has offered to help any regional parties who are not strong enough to fight Congress (I) alone.

The former film actor is more than a match for Mr. Gandhi in swaying voters, political commentators say, and has picked up enough Hindi in the last two years to be able to be as effective in inspiring crowds in that language as in his native Telegu. He is currently looking to extend his influence in the three major states in the "Hindu belt" — Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh — where he is seeking local leaders to support his unity message.

Mr. Rama Rao has pinned his hopes on the regional groups to draw substance for his Bharat Desam.

But Mr. Gandhi has already made it clear that he will not give up without a fight, describing the regional parties as "anti-national" during Congress (I) centenary celebrations last month.

BANGLADESH

Police Deployed at Dhaka University Campus

BK100145 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 10 Jan 86

[Text] The deputy minster for education, Mr Zeyauddin Ahmed Bablu, has reiterated the government's determination to maintain the sanctity of education (? anywhere) and keep it free from terrorism. Explaining the current situation obtaining in the Dhaka University, the deputy minister said the present circumstances stem from the attack and arson on the residence of the vice chancellor on the 30th of last month. He appealed to democratic minded and conscious people of the country to extend their all out cooperation to the government for preserving the sanctity of the university.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police [DMP] has said the police are making every effort to maintain law and order in the Dhaka University campus even under adverse situation. In a press release issued in Dhaka last night, the DMP said the police have been deployed in the campus area following requests from the university authorities for the maintenance of law and order. It said the police are discharging this responsibility with patience and restraint despite the fact that they were subjected to harassment and even they sustained physical injuries.

PAKISTAN

Memorandum of Understanding Signed With India

BK100655 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 10 Jan 86

[Text] Pakistan and India have signed a memorandum of understanding on important points of the talks between the finance ministers of the two countries for increasing cooperation in trade and other economic fields. Announcing this in Islambad this morning, the finance ministers of two countries — Dr Mahbubul Haq and V.P. Singh — described their 2-day talks as highly positive. The Indian finance minister said the two countries have agreed to expand cooperation in fields of infrastructure, shipping, air links, and trade in the public and private sectors, and to start joint industrial ventures. The two sides have also agreed to start direct dialing service between two countires before the end of current year and to expand telex services between Lahore and Amritsar. The Indian finance minsiter said the two sides have agreed to strive for at least a doubling of the volume of public sector trade during this year. Pakistan can export urea fertilizer, cotton, lubricating oil, iron and steel products, while India can export iron ore, wheat, insecticides, and other goods. It has also been decided to set up a committee comprising senior officials of the two countries to oversee the implementation of the agreed minutes.

The Pakistani finance minister, Dr Mahbubul Haq, said economic relations between the two countries have entered a new and promising stage. He expressed the hope that bilateral trade relations will significantly increase to the mutual benefit of the two countries. He clarified that this will not affect any local industry or national interests as full protection is being provided to industries and to the national economy.

SRI LANKA

Minister Assures Testing of Tea Before Export

BK101135 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 10 Jan 86

[Text] Laboratory tests of samples of tea are being carried at various government institutions and by the Sri Lanka Tea Board following the attempts by the terrorists to spread canards about Sri Lankan tea being poisoned. The minister of public administration and plantation industry assured foreign missions in Colombo this morning that every tea set will be tested before it leaves the country. In addition, several tea exporters themselves are carrying out extensive tests to protect their customers and their own interest.

The minister said that consumers in the overseas markets should have no cause, whatsoever, for anxiety as stocks available on retail shelves at present would have been imported from Sri Lanka several months back. In addition, supplies that may be available in the next few months would have been processed from stocks already lying in warehouses and imported well before the current rumor.

The minister told foreign diplomats that from time to time persons unfriendly to the country had made attempts to tarnish its image and disrupt the economy. He said that the damage that such propaganda can cause to smaller countries such as ours is quite considerable. He added that it was inconceivable that the separatists, who solicit sympathy for their cause from people abroad, would want to harm these very people.

The minister gave the assurance that customers will continue to enjoy high quality tea as they have done for over a century.

AFP Further Report

HK100951 Hong Kong AFP in English 0885 GMT 10 Jan 86

[Text] Colombo, Jan 10 (AFP) — All tea waiting to leave Sri Lanka will be tested for poison within the next two days, the government today assured tea buyers.

Tests will also be carried out in the future, plantation Industries minister Mantague Jayewickrema said.

About 40,000 tea chests were being scientifically tested to ensure that militant Tamil separatists had not carried out a claim that they had poisoned Sri Lanka tea shipments, Mr Jayewickrema told diplomats and buyers from 19 countries.

All 100,000 chests of tea awaiting shipment would be tested within the next two days and the government would certify every chest, if necessary issuing guarantee certificates.

"We can assure the tea-drinking world that what we sell can be safely sold," Mr Jayewickrema said.

Tea buyers bring in about 45 percent of the country's foreign earnings.

Sri Lanka sells about four million kilos (8.8 million pounds) of tea per week at auction and all 4.8 million kilos (10.5 million pounds) offered this week were sold, he added.

This showed that the major tea buyers believed the poison threat by the Tamil Eelam Army (TEA), a splinter militant group, was a hoax, Mr Jayewickrema said.

Tea buyers could send samples to government institutions for testing or scientists would be sent to the buyer's warehouses and purchasing agents could watch the tests being carried out.

The TEA yesterday said that it would continue to poison tea shipments, warning in a letter to foreign missions that "as our intention is only to wreck the Sri Lankan economy and not to hurt innocent citizens of the countries which import Sri Lankan tea, we beg you not to dismiss this as a hoax."

Colombo had already started monitoring tea samples after the TEA first made the poison claim last month, but officials said that random checks had detected no poison.

Strict security measures have also been taken on tea estates and transport used to carry tea, the chairmen of two government corporations which run most of the country's tea plantations said.

All people entering tea factories are searched, and trucks carrying tea are locked and sent directly to Colombo without transit stops, they added.

Officials said the poison tea threat could also affect tea from other countries, as about 45 percent of Sri Lankan tea exports are blended with other teas before being sold.

Trades unions on tea plantations, including the Ceylon Workers Congress which largely represents Tamil workers of Indian origin, today pledged their support to Mr Jayewickrema and said they would make certain that no sabotage threat was carried out.

A section of Sri Lanka's 2.5 million minority Tamil population have been waging a frequently bloody campaign for greater autonomy in the north and east, complaining of discrimination by the Sinhala majority.

Delhi: Tamil Members of Cease-fire Committee Resign

BK101141 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Jan 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, two Tamil members of the cease-fire monitoring committee have resigned. They are Professor (K. Sivatandi) and Mr k. Sivabalan. They submitted their resignation to President Jayewardene last evening in protest against the committee's inability to restrain the security forces from indulging in what they called killing, mass arrests, and displacement of innocent civilians in northern and eastern parts of the island. It may be recalled that the Tamil groups agreed at the Indian initiative to cessation of hostilities only after the inclusion of these two Tamil members in the monitoring committee.

13 Tamil Guerrillas, 1 Soldier Killed in Firefight

HK101242 Hong Kong AFP in English 1212 GMT 10 Jan 86

[Excerpt] Colombo, Jan 10 (AFP) — Thirteen Tamil separatist guerrillas and one government soldier were killed in a gunbattle when troops raided a guerrilla hideout in Mullaitivu in northern Sri Lanka today, National Security Ministry sources here said.

The sources said two other soldiers were wounded.

This was the largest number of militants killed in a single engagement with the security forces so far this year, according to official statistics.

The sources said the troops had recovered a large stock of arms and ammunition from the hideout.

The guerrillas are believed to be members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrilla group, the sources said.

Militant members of the Tamil minority community in Sri Lanka, where the Sinhala Majority is dominant, are fighting a guerrilla campaign for a separate Tamil state in the north and east of the country.

The National Security Ministry sources said the security forces had received information that a Tamil family of Indian origin had been abducted by the LTTE for not co-operating with them.

The security forces also learned that the LTTE were compelling people in the area to work on road building and other tasks without payment.

Troops were on their way to check this information and search for the abducted family when they came under fire, the sources said.

Rain, Floods Leave 32 Dead, 65,000 Families Homeless

BK091334 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 9 Jan 86

[Text] Incessant rain followed by floods has resulted in 65,000 families being made homeless in the Amparai, Batticaloa, and Polonnaruwa Districts. The highest number of families affected are in the Amparai District, totaling 39,000 families. The Batticaloa GA [Government Agent], N. Anthonymuthu, told SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] that these families have taken refuge in schools and other places of shelter. All transport services in the district have been disrupted. Only 12 buses are plying on the roads in the entire district. The Manampitiya bridge has been damaged and, due to the disruption of transport services between Colombo and Batticaloa, there may be a shortage of food items. The GA said that all steps would be taken to ensure that adequate supplies are maintained. Those affected by the food shortage will be provided with cooked food.

In the Polannaruwa District, 500 families have been isolated by the floods. According to reports reaching the Department of Social Services, attempts to rescue them have not yet been successful.

The number of dead in the Badulla District as a result of earthslips is now 13, while those rendered homeless have reached 2,000. In the Nuwara Eliya District, 19 have died in earthslips while 3,500 have been left homeless. The director of social services, Aryarubasinghe, told the SLBC that immediate relief will be provided to all those affected by the floods and that food supplies for these will be ensured.

AFP: 37 killed

HK091014 Hong Kong AFP in English 0947 GMT 9 Jan 86

[Text] Colombo, Jan 9 (AFP) — Landslides triggered by heavy rain have killed at least 37 people and made 7,000 homeless in the tea-growing central hill country, officials said here today.

The landslides on Monday were in the Nuwara Eliya and Badulla Districts, the officials said, adding that the death toll could rise further as rescue operations continued.

The officials said torrential rain since Monday had also disrupted rail and road services and hampered rescue workers.

Other sources said that the rains had also hit the eastern Batticaloa District and a local official said that some 30,000 people had either been made homeless or were unable to return to their homes.

Residents in Batticaloa told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that several thousands were being temporarily housed in schools and other buildings.

They said that food was being distributed, but stocks were expected to run low due to transport problems.

Weathermen said the rain was continuing and warned fishermen not to take to the sea off the island's east coast.

Khamene'i To Pay State Visit to PDRY in Next 10 Days

LD091437 Tehran IRNA in English 1235 GMT 9 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i of Iran will pay a two-day state visit to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen within the next 10 days, it was announced Thursday. The visit will take place at the invitation of the south Yemenese President, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, the announcement said. The announcement was made by the public relations office of the Presidential Bureau here, Thursday.

Muhammad-Salih Qutayish, the special envoy of the PDRY's president, extended the invitation in a meeting with President Khamene'i here last Monday.

Agreement Reached With Kuwait on Hijacked Aircraft

LD091401 Tehran IRNA in English 1504 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] Kuwait, Jan. 8, IRNA — Iran and Kuwait have agreed to resolve [words indistinct] hijacked Kuwaiti passenger plane *Kazemeh* at Mehrabad International Airport of Tehran since 1983, according to a Kuwaiti airlines official here Wednesday. In an interview with the press Wednesday the airlines official said the plane would either be returned to Kuwait or compensation would be collected from insurance companies.

Armed Forces Voice Support for Libya Against U.S.

LD091355 Tehran IRNA in English 1345 GMT 9 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA — Defence Minister Colonel Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali Thursday announced armed forces support for Libya vis-a-vis recent threats of the United States. In a meeting with Libyan Charge d'Affaires Muhammad al-Qamati here Thursday, Colonel Jalali said that Iran's Army was pursuing recent U.S. movements against Libya.

Describing the U.S. threats as 'bluffs', Colonel Jalali expressed the hope that Libyan nation would continue their resistance against all these plots. He also announced Iran's preparedness to send a delegation to Libya to study the assistance Iran can offer Libya. Iran will never forget Libya's support in the course of the Iraqi-imposed war, the defence minister said.

Appreciating Iran's solidarity with Libya, the Libyan charge d'affaires reiterated his country's support for the righteous stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Referring to the presence of the U.S. military forces in the region, he said that imposition of an economic sanction by the U.S. against Libya is considered, from international point of view, as the declaration of war with his country.

Reagan Action Called 'Stupid'

LD091510 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT 9 Jan 86

["Press Review"]

[Text] This week, the volume of propaganda by the arrogant media against Libya increased. Making the propaganda more serious, Reagan gave a news conference in which he tried to fan the fire of the propaganda war against Libya. In its political review, *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI* says the following about Reagan's news conference:

In his news conference, Reagan announced the severance of all economic ties and economic cooperation between the United States and Libya. He prohibited U.S. citizens from entering into any economic transactions with Libya. He clearly asked Americans residing in Libya to leave that country, saying that otherwise they would be put on trial upon their return to America and sentenced to 10 years in prison. This, in fact, shows the lack of credibility of the U.S. administration, when a former actor simultaneously plays all three roles of judge, jury, and executioner. With his remarks, Reagan has, in fact, shown Washington's worries and anxiety that are prevailing over U.S. foreign policies. This actor has proven that the U.S. judicial system can be toyed with to accord with policies that suddenly occur to him.

It is extremely doubtful that such foolish decisions could enable Washington to attain its goals since the first reactions to Washington's wailings promise adverse results. Due to Reagan's stupid actions, U.S. policymakers have forfeited the results planned over a long period concerning many regimes ruling Islamic countries. Reagan's screams have altered the propaganda atmosphere to America's disadvantage to the extent that all the participant members of the Islamic foreign ministers conference — even the representative of the Egyptian puppet regime — voted in favor of the proposed resolution supporting Libya in confrontation with America's impudent threats.

Reagan's screams have had similar results on many world issues and have forced America into a degrading retreat not only in terms of propaganda, but in action too. In his threats, Reagan tries hard to prepare the U.S. public to receive the bodies of U.S. servicemen in the course of a possible war overseas. However, is the American public able to accept in practice heavy casualties resulting from Reagan's stupid policies? The answer to this question is fairly clear even to Reagan and the gangsters ruling the decisionmaking centers in the United States. For this reason, it seems unlikely that Reagan will be tempted to take serious action and end up sending bodies of U.S. servicemen home.

Tabriz Radio Commentary

GF091426 Tabriz International Service in Azeri 1800 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, reports say that about 40 U.S. warships have been deployed close to the Libyan shores. The aircraft carrier *Coral Seas* is moving toward Libya as well. Meanwhile, the Greek press reported that extraordinary activity has been observed at U.S. bases in Greece and Sicily. On the other hand, Greece has said it will not allow the United States to use its bases in an attack against Libya. Furthermore, doubt-raising reports are circulating in connection with the alleged transfer of a number of Israeli Air Force squadrons to U.S. warships in the

Mediterranean. Libya has reacted against the provocative U.S. moves and has ordered its reserves on alert.

Meanwhile, Islamic countries have expressed increasing concern over the possibility of a military move by the United Sattes and the Zionist regime. This state of affairs has proved that Reagan and Shim'on Peres intend to create a tragic situation in the Mediterranean Sea — a situation which will seriously threaten that sensitive region's stability and security. In addition to the military threat against Libya, the Israeli press has been talking about a naval siege against that country. This has intensified existing apprehension.

Taking into consideration the U.S. practice of using its military resources to subject various countries in the world to naval blockades to date, a number of political observers have expressed concern over such reports. However, the experience gained by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf region and by Nicaragua in the Caribbean Sea shows that the might of the revolutionary force of the peoples in the face of U.S. naval blockades exceeds estimates made in Washington and Tel Aviv. Nevertheless, repeating acts of violence and crimes is in the nature of imperialism.

Undoubtedly, there is a need to adopt a determined stand against the new military and econonic threats made against Libya by the United States and the Zionist regime. The Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria have officially disclosed that they will not remain indifferent toward any aggression against Libya by the United States and the Zionist regime. The other peoples and countries in the region have also voiced apprehension over the imperialist and Zionist moves against Libya and expressed solidarity with Libya and its people.

Undoubtedly, the large volume of the trade carried out in the Mediterranean region explains the unrest being created by the United States and Israel. It is obvious that the U.S. allies in Europe will suffer unredeemable losses should the Mediterranean Sea region's stability and security be disrupted. Therefore, European countries must also be concerned with the unrest being created in the Mediterranean Sea region. What concerns the Muslim peoples of the world, Libya, and the Muslims in the region is the question of adopting a determined stand against any kind of foreign conspiracy. There should be no uncertainty about this fact. The future will clarify how far the madness of Reagan and Shim'on Peres will go.

Khamene'i Scores RSA, Egypt in Friday Sermon

LD101332 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jan 86

[Text] Our Muslim compatriots throughout the country observed the Friday prayers' religious-political rites today. The people of Tehran, too, by attending Tehran University and the surrounding thoroughfares, observed the Friday prayers under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i. Today's Friday prayers ceremonies were also attended by the Karbala marchers convoy from Gilan Province, clergymen, Friday imams from the same province, selfless Gendarmerie personnel leaving for the battlefronts, and a number of families of martyrs.

Tehran's Friday imam spoke in detail about recent events on the Continent of Africa, particularly the events in Egypt; the wrongful martyrdom of Sulayman Khatir, the Sinai's martyred soldier; the brave reaction of the Libyan people and government toward U.S. threats; the powerful stances adopted by Iran and other Islamic countries in this respect; and the terror of world arrogance of the spread of Islamic movements in the world; and, while glorifying the intrepid uprising by the people of Qom on 9 January 1978, thereby paving the way for the victory of Iran's Islamic Revolution, from 21 January to 19 February 1979, described the uprising by the people of Qom on 9 January 1978 as similar to and closely resembling the recent events in Egypt, adding:

Today, the African people in the northern and southern parts of that oppressed continent have embarked on brave movements. In South Africa, which has been administered by a racist regime for decades and which is indeed considered a fundamental base of world arrogance for imposing its domination on African countries, the country's oppressed and downtrodden people have awakened and clenched their fists. The events in that country are extremely hopeful, and with the strengthening of the people of that country and the people of the Frontline countries fighting the racist regime of South Africa, the regime will be pushed toward its downfall. Iran will vigorously pursue its policy in this respect and will fight racist policies.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i then expounded on Islamic movements emerging in North Africa and referred to the recent events in Egypt. Describing the genuine struggles of the Egyptian people against decadent Western culture throughout history and enumerating the plots hatched by world arrogance aimed at reducing Egypt to abjection, he added: The prime aim behind concluding the traitorious Camp David accord was not an Egyptian-Israeli reconciliation, but rather, a wish to reduce Egypt to abjection as the strongest progressive country with Arab culture!

Referring to the fact that the Egyptian nation, thanks to the repeated crimes perpetrated by the Sadat and Mubarak regimes, is feeling inferior to the Islamic world, Tehran's Friday imam emphasized: The bullets fired from the gun held by Sulayman Khatir, the young Egyptian Muslim, at the Zionists were not the result of that young man's personal feelings, but rather the embodiment of the crushed and suppressed aspirations and complexes of the Egyptian nation. At the time of embarking on that action the young man shouted "Allah Akbar!" [God is the Greatest!]. He loved Islam and the Islamic Revolution. The movement that has begun in Egypt is an Islamic one and the fate of Islamic movements supported by the people is victory, and the fate of the enemies of these movements is defeat and downfall. This incident has awakened the Egyptian people and exposed the Egyptian regime.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i added: The wave of Islamic movements has terrified world arrogance. These people are angered by the wave of Islamic movements in the world and they deserve to die with anger since they are helpless against Islamic movements.

Referring to his impending visit to Africa, Tehran's Friday imam emphasized: Our aim in visiting Tanzania, Mozambique, Angola, and Zimbabwe is to demonstrate the presence of the Muslim nation of Iran within the borders of South Africa and to prove once again our support for the oppressed African nations.

During today's Friday prayer ceremonies in Tehran, the worshippers chanted: "Death to Israel!" and "Death to the United States!" and glorified the selfless deeds of Sulayman Kahtir, the martyred soldier of Islam, and expressed their support for the heroic Libyan nation vis-a-vis the propaganda and military onslaughts of world arrogance.

The pre-sermon speaker in Tehran's Friday prayers today was Ayatollah Mohammadi-Gilani, who continued the eighth part of his discourse on resurrection.

Montazeri Warns 'Sold-out' Islamic World Leaders

LD091754 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 9 Jan 86

[Text] Qom, Jan. 9. IRNA -- Iran's future spiritual leader, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri Thursday strongly lashed out at "certain sold-out heads of state in Islamic countries" who put all the natural and intellectual resources of the Muslims at the disposal of the Western and Eastern superpowers. He said all the catastrophes the Islamic world is faced with today, are caused by these dependent heads of state who have weakened Islam and Muslims by their acts.

Ayatollah Montazeri made the remarks in a large gathering of scholars and students, Iranians as well as from other Islamic countries, who marched in the city streets here to commemorate the martyrdom of the Muslim Egyptian soldier Sulayman Khatir.

Ayatollah Montazeri urged Muslims to be vigilant and realize the dangers besetting the Islamic world. He also expressed astonishment at the reticence of Islamic countries vis-a-vis the crimes of the Zionist regime against the Palestinians and south Lebanese Muslims, as well as the horrible crime of the Eyptian regime in martyring Sulayman Khatir. He warned these reactionary heads of state against the revenge of the Muslim masses.

The marchers passed a resolution reiterating the liberation seeking struggle of world Muslims, as well as Iran's all-out support for Libya.

Musavi Says Iran Pursues Justice in Continuing War

LD091841 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 9 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Thursday that blood of martyrs of the Islamic Revolution of Iran has not only enabled Iranians to stand firm vis-a-vis difficulties, but also left tangible effects on other Islamic countries. The prime minister referred to the martyrdom of the Egyptian soldier Sulayman Khatir as the latest example of such effects.

Speaking to a gathering of over 300 volunteer forces of 'Karbala caravans' from Bakhtaran Province, heading for the fronts of the Iraqi-imposed war, the premier added that the fate of the world Muslims has been intermingled with the movement of these Iranian volunteer forces.

He said despite efforts of the global arrogance to destroy the Islamic Revolution, Iranians are now witnessing great developments in the Islamic world.

On the Iraqi-imposed war, the premier said that those who invited Iran to compromise with the Iraqi regime have not understood the real meaning of "justice". He added that punishment of the agreessor would be in the benefit of international peace and security. "Therefore, we will continue the war powerfully and by relying on God and our committed forces, and will tolerate all the difficulties to this end."

Majlis Approves Modification of Consription Act

LD091336 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Jan 86

[Text] During its open session today, the Islamic Consultative Assembly continued debate on and approved in its second reading a bill adding a number of articles to the Conscription Act. Members of the Council of Guardians were present during the proceedings.

In accordance with the approved articles, those who in any way employ absentee conscripts in private firms -- such as factories, workshops, offices, and shops -- shall be identified by agents specified in Article One of the Act and handed over to appropriate courts. Such people shall be subject in peacetime to imprisonment ranging from 3 to 6 months and in wartime from 1 to 6 years.

In addition, military and security organizations are required to make appropriate arrangements so that all conscripts in wartime or under general mobilization spend at least one year of the period of national service in operational areas, except is cases where the Supreme Defense Council deems it necessary for certain individuals to serve in nonoperational areas. Regulations governing the implementation of the law shall be prepared within one month in accordance with Article 66 of the Conscription Act and implemented.

Lebanese Hizballah Figure on Recent Visit to Iran

GF092030 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Jan 86

[Text] Ibrahim al-Amin, a Lebanese Hizballah leader, has said that the joint Hizballah-Amal delegation's visit to Iran to discuss the basis for preserving Islamic society in Lebanon was necessary so that Muslims can confront the plots against them.

In his statement, which was published today in the Beirut press, Ibrahim al-Amin said the visit was successful and that it set forth clear lines for continuing the struggle against the Zionist entity. He noted the Zionist entity's aggression against southern Leba-

non and said: Israel is trying through this aggression and security measures to increase its presence in the area. He affirmed that the Zionist entity's presence is based on crimes, terrorism, and destruction in the region, and that negotiations cannot be held with it except through force.

Five Sudanese POW's To Be Released in Near Future

LD092222 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan 8, IRNA — A group of foreign and local journalists Wednesday met and talked with five Sudanese POW's. They were captured by the Islamic combatants of Iran while fighting on the side of the Iraqi invaders, and are to be released in the near future now that Tehran's relations with the new government in Khartoum have improved.

The Sudanese POW's expressed regret to the journalists over the "bitter experience" of having been deceived into fighting on the side of the Iraqi invaders. They also lauded the humanitarian action of the Islamic Republic to repatriate them.

In the interview, the POW's described the behavior of their Iranian captors as 'Islamic and humane' and said that throughout their captivity they have received the best of medical treatment and that their well-being has been looked after quite well.

Iran has agreed to release the Sudanese POW's following talks with the new Government of Sudan, which has adopted a 'positive' and neutral stand vis-a-vis the Iraqi-imposed war.

The Islamic Republic of Iran had no relations with Sudan under Ja'far Numayri.

Five Divisions of Volunteers Leave for Fronts

GF100613 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Jan 86

[Excerpts] Five divisions of volunteers who have been slated for dispatch to the fronts of the imposed war from Gilan Province participated in a grand march in the City of Rasht and then left for the war zones. Our colleagues reports on the same: [Begin recording]

In continuation of the departure of the infidel-fighting wayfarers of Karbala from all over the country for the war areas, five divisions of the people's forces from Gilan Province comprised of experts, training personnel, and redispatched forces of the mobilization and the Islamic Revolution Guards' Corps [IRGC] left for the fronts of right versus wrong. Earlier, they participated in a mammoth and unparalleled march in the City of Rasht along with the people of Gilan Province.

Workers, farmers, members of the elite and students community, government employees, families of the esteemed martyrs, guild members, bazaar merchants, and selfless Muslim people from all walks of life in Gilan Rpovince also participated in the march. The devout Muslim people sacrificed sheep and cattle, burned incense, sprinkled rosewater and flower petals along the routes to honor the noble monotheistic forces. According to this report, following ceremonies at the Shohada-ye Zahab-e Rasht Square, Tehran Majlis deputy Mr Fakhreddin Hejazi spoke in detail about the gains of the revolution, the plots of the satanic forces against the Isalmic republic, and the problems pertaining to the imposed war. [end recording]

[Signed] The Central News Unit, Rasht.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,345

LD091734 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT 9 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA — Iran's naval forces seized a commercial ship suspected of carrying goods for the Iraqi regime in the Strait of Hormuz [words indistinct] GMT Wednesday, a joint staff [words indistinct].

The Communique Number 2345 published by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces, said that the Navy escorted the intercepted ship [words indistinct].

Meanwhile, [word indistinct] Iran's Muslim combatants responded to the Iraqi fire in western fronts Wednesday, killing or wounding at least 15 troops and demolishing several artillery emplacements and vehicles belonging to the Iraqi Army.

Sumar and Mehran regions in these fronts were the scene of heavy artillery exchanges, the communique added.

In northwestern fronts, the Joint Staff reported, Iranian Muslim forces subjected Iraqi positions to their heavy artillery fire Wednesday, inflicting considerable casualties and destroying three artillery pieces and one munitions dump.

Elsewhere the communique said that in clashes between Iranian and Iraqi patrols in these fronts Wednesday, the Iraqi patrols were forced to flee while sustaining casualties and losses.

The Iraqi positions in the southern fronts and their vehicles supplying Iraqi troops in the regions overlooking Fakkeh, came under artillery fire of Iranian Muslim forces Wednesday, reported the communique. It added that movement of Iraqi forces in Chuman-(Mustafa), (Girdmand) and Darband were halted by Iranian forces Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the City of Abadan, Khuzestan province, suffered damages Wednesday as it was shelled by Iraqi long-range artillery fire.